

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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a1
1. A method for dynamically extending a firewall, the method comprising the steps of :
    - 2 (a) establishing a connection with a remote system;
    - 3 (b) receiving an identifier from the remote system; and
    - 4 (c) using the identifier to filter information received through the connection with the
    - 5 remote system.
  - 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) comprises initiating a serial connection with the
  - 2 remote system.
  - 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) comprises:
    - 2 (a-a) contacting the remote system;
    - 3 (a-b) providing the remote system with authentication credentials;
    - 4 (a-c) receiving a serial connection from the remote system in response to the
    - 5 authentication credentials.
  - 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) comprises:
    - 2 (b-a) requesting an identifier from the remote system; and
    - 3 (b-b) receiving an identifier in response to the request.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the identifier from the remote system is an Internet  
2 Protocol (IP) address.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) comprises the steps of:

2 (c-a) receiving a packet of information from the remote system;

3 (c-b) examining the packet of information to determine its destination address

4 (c-c) comparing the destination address to the identifier received from the remote  
5 system;

6 (c-d) accepting the packet if its destination address matches the identifier; and

7 (c-e) rejecting the packet if its destination address does not match the identifier.

8 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the remote system chooses the identifier transmitted from  
9 a pool of identifiers.

1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step:

2 (e) assigning the identifier received from the remote system to the local system.

1 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps:

2 (f) receiving a second identifier from the remote system;

3 (g) assigning the second identifier to service management logic on the local system.

4 (h) using the second identifier to filter information received through the connection  
5 with the remote system;

1 10. A method for dynamically extending a firewall, the method comprising the steps of :

2 (a) receiving a connection from a remote system;

3 (b) receiving an identifier from the remote system; and

4 (c) using the identifier to filter information received through the connection with the  
5 remote system.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein step (a) comprises the initiation of a serial connection by  
2 a remote system.

1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein step (a) comprises:

2 (a-a) receiving a call from the remote system;

3 (a-b) receiving authentication credentials from the remote system;

4 (a-c) initiating a serial connection with the remote system in response to the  
5 authentication credentials.

1 13. The method of claim 10 wherein step (b) comprises:

2 (b-a) requesting an identifier from the remote system; and

3 (b-b) receiving an identifier in response to the request.

1 14. The method of claim 10 wherein the identifier from the remote system is an Internet  
2 Protocol (IP) address.

1 15. The method of claim 10 wherein step (c) comprises the steps of:

2 (c-a) receiving a packet of information from the remote system;

3 (c-b) examining the packet of information to determine its destination address

4 (c-c) comparing the destination address to the identifier received from the remote  
5 system;

6 (c-d) accepting the packet if its destination address matches the identifier; and

7 (c-e) rejecting the packet if its destination address does not match the identifier.

8 16. The method of claim 10 wherein the remote system chooses the identifier transmitted  
9 from a pool of identifiers.

1 17. The method of claim 10 further comprising the step:

2 (e) assigning the identifier received from the remote system to the local system.

1 18. The method of claim 17 further comprising the steps:

2 (f) receiving a second identifier from the remote system;

3 (g) using the second identifier to filter information received through the connection  
4 with the remote system.

